



SECRETARY OF STATE BRIAN P. KEMP

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF ARCHITECTS AND INTERIOR DESIGNERS

Georgia State Board of Architects and Interior Designers, 237 Coliseum Dr Macon, GA 31217
<http://www.sos.ga.gov/plb/architects> P: 478-207-2440 F: 478-314-5805

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Update from the Director

Randy Vaughn

The Professional Licensing Boards Division is committed to identifying and implementing efficiencies in every area possible. To achieve this, we are continuing to develop new online applications. In anticipation of spring graduations, we are currently working to ensure that additional types of license applications are available online. In addition to new online applications, we are in the process of upgrading our business software. The necessary upgrades will allow us to broaden our online services and increase our support for our applicants and licensees.

In March, Secretary of State Brian P. Kemp announced a multi-phase consolidation of the Securities, Charities and Cemeteries Division of the Office of Secretary of State. This Division will be consolidated and moved to the Professional Licensing Boards Division in Macon. We will be

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working throughout the second quarter to complete this transition and will provide an update on the transition in the next newsletter.

The Secretary of State's office is committed to operating as efficiently as possible while providing excellent customer service to the citizens of the State of Georgia. We appreciate your confidence as we continue to improve our ability to serve and support you.

About the Board

The Georgia General Assembly created the Georgia State Board of Architects and Interior Designers in 1919 for the purpose of protecting the public health, safety, and welfare by regulating the activities of persons engaged in the architectural profession. The legislation was updated in 1992 to include licensure for interior designers. In order to carry out its charge, the Board has the authority to adopt rules, set standards for licensure, adopt mandatory standards of professional conduct, and investigate and discipline unauthorized, negligent or incompetent practice.

The Georgia State Board of Architects and Interior Designers consists of nine members: six registered architects, two registered interior designers, and one consumer member. Typically, the Board meets six times per year for regular business. Board meetings are open to the public with the exception of executive session, in which confidential matters such as complaints, disciplinary items, and applications are discussed.

2010 Meeting Dates

April 16, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.
 June 18, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.
 August 20, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.
 October 15, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.
 December 17, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

The Board meets at the Professional Licensing Board Office in Macon.

Minutes from the Board meetings may be found on the Board's website at www.sos.ga.gov/plb/architects

Board Members and Staff

Anne K. Smith, Registered Architect – *President*
 E. Camille Puckett, Registered Interior Designer
Vice-President
 George "Niles" Bolton, Registered Architect
 David Maschke, Registered Architect and Registered Interior Designer
 Laurie H. McRae, Registered Interior Designer
 Jim Mehserle, Jr., Registered Architect
 Andrew J. Pace, Consumer Member
 Ivenue Love-Stanley, Registered Architect

Tanja Battle
 Executive Director
 Georgia State Board of Architects and Interior Designers

Active Licensees

Registered Architect: 5,206
 Registered Interior Designer: 370

Expiration Dates

Registered Architect – June 30 of odd numbered years
Registered Interior Designers – March 31 of odd numbered years

"It is illegal to work as an architect with an expired license or to claim to be a registered interior designer without a current license"

Actions Taken by the Board

January: The Board voted to accept the proposed revisions to O.C.G.A. §43-4, relating to Architects and Interior Designers.

February: The Board voted to ratify the issuance of 12 registered interior designer licenses, 10 registered architect licenses by examination, 34 registered architect licenses by reciprocity, and the reinstatement of 35 registered architect licenses.

The Board approved 13 applications for registered architect licensure by examination, two applications for architectural licensure by reciprocity, the renewal of one registered architect license, and one application for licensure as a registered interior designer.

The Board denied one application for registered architect licensure by examination, two applications for reinstatement of expired registered architect licenses, and one application for licensure as a registered interior designer.

The Board voted to accept the following voluntary cease and desist order for unlicensed practice:
Shawn Rainey, Flowery Branch

The Board ratified the acceptance of the following voluntary cease and desist orders for unlicensed practice:

Taz E. Ogletree, Albany

Spitzmiller & Norris, Atlanta

Lonnie Brown II, College Park

License Renewal Process

How do I renew my license?

You may renew your license on the Professional Licensing Board website with a credit card. Click on the License Renewal icon and follow the instructions. You will be asked a series of questions including whether you have been arrested, convicted of a crime or received a board sanction since the last renewal, whether you have completed your continuing education requirements, and whether you are a U.S. citizen. Renewing your license via the website is the fastest way to renew your license.

The Professional Licensing Boards do not mail paper renewals unless requested. A paper renewal form may be requested by the licensee either by calling the Board office at 478-207-2440, or by submitting a written request.

Disciplinary Issues:

The Board resolved a number of disciplinary issues this year, including unlicensed practice and violation of a consent order. Addressing these issues on a case-by-case basis, the Board takes these matters very seriously and applies sanctions to those who violate the Georgia Architect and Interior Design Practice Act, Board rules, and policies. It is important that licensees review all laws, rules and policies that affect their profession. These may be found on the Board's website at www.sos.ga.gov/plb/architects/.

All public disciplinary actions will be reflected in the Board minutes which may be found on the Georgia State Board of Architects and Interior Designers website.

Grounds for denial, suspension, revocation of a license, or other disciplinary actions may be found at O.C.G.A. § 43-4 and at O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19. State laws and Board rules may be found on our website at www.sos.ga.gov/plb/architects/

Complaint Process Information

The Georgia State Board of Architects and Interior Designers, whose members are appointed by the Governor, has the responsibility of administering the laws in O.C.G.A. § 43-4. The Board determines if applicants meet licensure requirements, promulgates rules, and considers complaints against licensees and allegations of unlicensed practice. The process for disposing of complaints is as follows:

Complaint Form:

Complaints must be reported to and received by the Board in writing. Written complaints may be submitted to the Board office or be submitted on-line at <http://sos.georgia.gov/myverification/submitcomplaint.aspx>. Documents received in connection with a complaint will not be returned. The complaint must contain sufficient factual evidence indicating a clear violation of Georgia law or Board rules.

Investigations:

The Board gives serious consideration to all complaints. Further investigative action may be taken. Should you file a complaint, you may be contacted by a Board inspector or investigator for additional information. Investigative files are considered confidential for any purpose other than a hearing before the Board. However, the Board is authorized to release such records to another enforcement agency or lawful licensing authority.

Notification Process:

While the investigation is ongoing, the Board is unable to discuss the status of a complaint with anyone, including the complainant. When the Board has completed the case, the complainant will be notified in writing of the Board's actions. All public disciplinary actions will be reflected in the Board minutes which may be found on the Board's website.

Frequently Asked Questions

The Board list of frequently asked questions is available on the Board's website. If you cannot find an answer to your question, you may contact the Board office at (478) 207-2440.